

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /092 W  
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R 021731Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9808

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, PO, EC, GW

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTER BAHR'S VIEWS  
ON AID TO PORTUGAL

REF: BONN 6312

1. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT WITH ECONOMIC  
COOPERATION MINISTER BAHR ON MAY 2, AMBASSADOR ASKED  
BAHR FOR HIS VIEWS ON ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL.

2. BAHR TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THE FRG HAD A POSITIVE  
ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH AID. THE MAJOR PROBLEMS RELATE  
TO PORTUGUESE ABSORPTION OF ANY AID EXTENDED. HE  
SAID HE HAD TOLD THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER,  
WHO WAS HERE NOT LONG AGO, THAT THE FRG WOULD BE  
WILLING TO CONSIDER ANY PROJECTS THAT THE PORTUGUESE  
WISHED TO PRESENT. THE 70 MILLION DM WHICH  
HAD BEEN COMMITTED SO FAR WERE LARGELY FOR TWO  
SPECIALIZED PROJECTS INCLUDING AN AGRICULTURAL  
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DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTER-

PRISES. THE PORTUGUESE WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN EITHER ASSOCIATION OR A SPECIAL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND THE FRG WAS READY TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE. FORTUNATELY, ACCORDING TO BAHR, THE PORTUGUESE AT THE MOMENT HAD NO FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROBLEMS.

3. BAHR SAID THE RECENT ELECTION RETURNS IN PORTUGAL HAD BEEN VERY CLOSE TO WILLY BRANDT'S PREDICTIONS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. BRANDT THOUGHT THAT THE COMMUNIST SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WAS NOT UNLIKE THAT OF THE COMMUNISTS IN BERLIN IN THE EARLY POST-WAR PERIOD. THEIR HOPES OF SUCCESS IN THE EARLY PERIOD OF "LIBERATION" WOULD IN THE END BE DISAPPOINTED.

4. BAHR WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE NEW PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR IN BONN. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS WELL GROUNDED IN ECONOMICS AND EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY. HE CONSIDERED THIS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT GIVEN THE SHORTAGE OF COMPETENT DIPLOMATS OF THIS KIND IN THE SERVICE OF THE NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME.

5. BAHR PHILOSOPHIZED THAT THE MILITARY IN PORTUGAL WAS DISTRUSTFUL OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES. BAHR WAS BASICALLY SOMEWHAT SYMPATHETIC WITH THAT VIEW SINCE ANY COUNTRY WHICH HAD HAD FIFTY YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP WOULD PROBABLY NEED A TRANSITIONAL REGIME TO LEAD INTO RESPONSIBLE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. HILLENBRAND

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